



Mat-Su Monitor

FEBRUARY 2025

FREE

VOLUME 48 NUMBER 3

Student Government Elections

Getting involved with your student government is a great way to help develop leaderships skills while making a positive impact on campus.

Nominations are open for President, Vice-President and Senator positions.

Watch for application deadlines. Application packets available here:



Get involved with your
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Meetings Tuesdays
1:30 - 2:30 FSM 106

2025

You earned an **A!**



**STUDENT
SHOWCASE**

Enter your work
in the 2025
Student Showcase.

The 2025 Student Showcase
will be held on
Saturday, April 5th, 10:00 am
in **FSM 206**

*Includes work submitted from
spring 2024 through spring 2025

Application Deadline: March 7th

Scan the QR code
to learn more



Rocket Science: Isentropic Flow

Justice A. Darby

The Isentropic Relations

While the physics behind rockets is well known for its complexity, there exists a set of simplified physical relations that work to effectively dumb down the science enough to allow for relatively quick estimations of rocket performance. These relations are called isentropic flow. It is often taught to undergraduate aerospace and mechanical engineers in the understanding and designing of ideal thermodynamic systems and engines. While it is not as accurate as computational fluid dynamics software, isentropic flow has the advantage of being less complex and much easier and faster to perform calculations on. Isentropic flow gets its name from its critical assumption of the flow having no change

in entropy where the first part of its name comes from the greek word “iso” meaning “same”.

The starting to understanding isentropic flow come privy of the relation between the entropy of a gas and its temperature and pressure: Eq. 1

$$dS = c_p \frac{dT}{T} - R \frac{dp}{p}$$

Although complicated to do, assuming there is no change in entropy and setting $dS = 0$, a bit of added differentiation, substitution, the ideal gas law, and integration, a critical relation emerges that relates the temperature, pressure, and density of a compressible flow. Eq. 2

$$\frac{p}{p_0} = \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right)^\gamma = \left(\frac{T}{T_0} \right)^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-1}}$$

What we have shows that if there is a way to figure out a relation for either the pressure, density, or temperature ratios in other terms, then the process of figuring out the state of the flow at any point becomes possible. The answer to this comes through the consideration of the conservation of energy.

The conservation of energy for a flow considers the variables of a flow's energy in the form of enthalpy (energy caused by heat and pressure changes), kinetic energy caused by the flow's motion, any potential energy caused by gravity, any energy input, and any work output the flow does such as spinning a turbine. Eq. 3

$$q_{net,in} - w_{net,out} = \Delta h + \Delta ke + \Delta pe$$

See **ROCKET SCIENCE** page 9

Upcoming events:

February 20 - MARCH 1: Hadestown at the Glenn Massay Theater.

February 17: Summer 2023 registration open to all students.

February 25: Student Government Pizza giveaway 1:30 - 2:30 FSM 106.

March 3-6: therapy dogs, FSM lobby.

March 11-15: spring break, no classes. Campus open except March 15.

March 18: Student Government Pizza giveaway 1:30 - 2:30 FSM 106.

March 21-APRIL 6: Annie at the Glenn Massay Theater.

March 28: Deadline to withdraw.

March 31: Fall 2023 schedule viewable on UAOnline.

April 11: Spring Dance

April 15: Student Government Pizza giveaway 1:30 - 2:30 FSM 106.

April 25: Deadline to apply for spring graduation and inclusion in ceremony.

Club meeting times:

ADVET Club: Every other Wed. 2:30 FMS 112.

Bible Club: Tues. 3-4 FSM 106

Gay Straight Alliance LGBTQIA+ club: Wed., 2:30 - 3:30 PM, FSM 106

Human Services Club: TBA

Mat-Su Monitor: Wed., 1-2 PM, OLB 214

Student Government: Tues., 1:30 - 2:30 PM, FSM 106

Robotics club: Mon-Wed. 1:30 - 3:30 JKB 120.

Table Top Gaming Club: Thurs 2:30 -4:30 Cafe.

A Review of the Matanuska-Susitna Orchestras Strength, Hope, Recovery Performance

By Justice A. Darby

The Matanuska Susitna Orchestra (Mat-Su Orchestra) performed a series of musical pieces to the themes of strength, hope, and recovery. Most of the music is from the Baroque era to the Romantic era, featuring pieces from composers like Franz Joseph Haydn, Antonio Vivaldi, and Peter Illych Tchaikovsky. Many of these pieces performed at the event were not the original composition, but instead were often rearranged or mixed pieces. This might make remembering specific characteristics about any of the pieces difficult, but enjoyable, since the altered musical pieces can give a renewed twist on an already familiar piece.

To start, a reordered Baroque piece of Vivaldi's Four Seasons rearranged by composer Todd Parrish called Inverno. This piece has all the hallmarks of Winter but blended all into one shorter piece. The performance is entirely made of string instruments, mainly cellos and violins, and it stays this way until the end. The beginning has the hallmarks of the violins from Winter with the added bonus of cellos rather than just more violins. The most dominant movement of Winter that stuck out to me throughout the whole performance was what was originally the first movement of

See **MUSIC** page 11

Ongoing contract talks

By Lou O'Hare

Note: this was written in late December and does not reflect the latest developments.

Folks, this is Lou O'Hare reporting for the Monitor to address the ongoing talks between the University faculty and its administration. The faculty union has several practical demands in order to create good and fair working conditions for its members. While the administration wants to reach an amicable agreement, they've laid out a series of half-measures that are not good enough to match the current economic struggles of the faculty at this time. "Since 2018, faculty have lost 12% of their purchas-

ing power," explains Micah Muer, a faculty member at the University. "That means raises have not kept pace with inflation." The administration claims the legislator would never approve of "big" raises like this, but that is not reconciled with the fact that public employees have seen their pay rise 25% at the same time. This means that legislators are fine-paying workers what they are worth and keeping pace with inflation. So, any half measure in the name of frugality is simply unconvincing. University faculty and the administration are locked in negotiations for a new

contract, with the faculty union, United Academics, expressing concerns about stagnant wages failing to keep pace with inflation. The crux of the faculty's demands revolves around achieving fair compensation that reflects the rising cost of living. Their proposals include salary increases, adjustments to minimum salaries to be more competitive, and a system for merit-based bonuses.

United Academics points to a recent study by the University itself that identified the need for market adjust-

See **CONTRACT** page 11

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Interview with Aimee Young, Administrative Assistant for Office of Academic Affairs

By Braden Quade

Monitor: What inspired you to attend college in the first place?:

A.Y.: I wanted to be a writer and illustrator ever since I was younger. I went to college with the intention to earn a degree in art or writing, but I ended up not doing so.

Monitor: What college did you go to for this degree?

A.Y.: I started at the University of Maine, then finished at Southern Maine Community College.

Monitor: What were your favorite classes in college?

A.Y.: My favorite classes were geography and world history. I really do enjoy geogra-phy and history and I wanted to be a history teacher initially.

Monitor: What was your favorite job that you have had before your position in the Office of Academic Affairs?

A.Y.: Before this job, and before I came to Alaska, I worked a job in marketing for Broadway musicals.

Monitor: That is so cool! Why did you decide to work at the Mat-Su college?

A.Y.: I lived in Wasilla as a kid and took a class at Mat-Su College as a young adult (Intro to American Government!). After living in Maine/New Hampshire for the last 20 years, I returned to Alaska last Spring on a vacation and loved being back. I applied for a job at Mat-Su College and made the move out here to start working in January!



Aimee Young, Administrative Assistant Mat-Su College

Monitor: Do you have any last words of advice for the Mat-Su college students?

A.Y.: Take a variety of classes to widen your perspective. When I started, I only wanted to take art and writing classes because I wanted to be an author and illustrator. But taking other classes helped me realize I was also good at graphic design and marketing, which got me my job in marketing for Broad-way musicals! Trying out different subjects isn't just about picking up new skills; it helps you understand people better and connect in ways you might not have thought possible. Who knows? You might stumble upon a passion you never expected to have!

Interview with William Oliveria, Career Development Advisor for Student Services

By Braden Quade

Monitor: What inspired you to attend college in the first place?

W.O.: I wanted to have a career in something I enjoyed, and I enjoyed learning. I also wanted to be able to support a family and get a high-paying job with this degree.

Monitor: What college did you go to for this degree?

W.O.: I went to California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt (Cal Poly Humboldt or Humboldt) in Arcata, California. There I earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Science.

Monitor: What were your favorite classes in college?

W.O.: My favorite classes were geography and world history. I really do enjoy geography and history and I wanted to be a history teacher initially.

Monitor: That is so cool! Why did you decide to work at the Mat-Su college?

W.O.: I enjoy the closeness of the Matanuska-Sustina College,



Will Oliveria, Career Development Advisor Mat-Su College

and how community-focused everything about the campus is.

Monitor: Do you have any last words of advice for the Mat-Su college students?

W.O.: Do NOT give up. No matter the challenges you face, remember that each setback is an opportunity to grow stronger and learn. Embrace your journey with determination and resilience, for your perseverance will lead you to your dreams of getting a college degree. Keep pushing forward, and believe in yourself—great things are possible!



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The Return of Career Development at Mat-Su College

William Oliveria, Career Development Advisor

How many of you have had an honest look at what you would want to do for a future career? This is a topic that comes up a lot for children specifically. They will typically have extraordinary ideas that the imagination of a child would come up with, for example, a child might want to be an astronaut, an actress, or a professional sports player. These are valid dreams, however what is important in this example is the imagination, which is so heavily used by the youth to think about their future. Many times, as people we get bogged down in day-to-day life and we forget what it's like to dream.

Everyone has their unique strengths and has a place where they can fit into the world to do something that they would truly enjoy. I am here to say to you that it's that kind of aspirational dream that we should all focus on and Career Services at Mat-Su College is here to help! We can help you figure out what you want out of life, figure out what types of work motivate you, steps to take with the college for your future educational needs, and even help you see potential careers and job offers that are local to you.

As a department, career services is back and we are now offering career development resources at Mat-Su College. These services

will be available for all prospective students, current students, and former students. We will be offering career advising, academic advising, job resume skills, job interview skills and mock interviews. We also offer career assessments and aptitude tests to help you discover more about yourself. No matter where you are in your educational journey we are here to help you during every step. Be on the lookout for helpful articles that I will be writing regularly for the Mat-Su Monitor!

A little about myself: I am relatively new to Alaska, however I have been working in higher education for several years and have held various jobs prior to that. I am originally from the northern border of California, and I have lived in Charleston, SC; Saratoga Springs, NY; and Virginia Beach, VA. I have worked in industries such as retail, grocery, landscaping and the electrical field in the US Navy. I know first-hand what it is like to change careers, and I am here to assist you in your own career path.

To schedule your appointment please contact student services at 907-745-9746 or go online and fill out an appointment request form on our website: <https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-services/career-development/>.

Submissions policy

Students are invited to submit articles and letters to the editor to matsu.monitor@alaska.edu or at <https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor>. The Mat-Su Monitor will not accept anonymous submissions, though with prior arrangement articles of a sensitive nature can appear anonymously. All submissions are subject to editing and will only appear with the approval of the editor.

MAT-SU MONITOR STAFF	
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Ashley Mortrud	Audrey Badger
	Micah Muer

Disclaimer

The Mat-Su Monitor is the student newspaper of Mat-Su College. The Monitor aims to report college news and serve as a forum for student writing. The Monitor seeks submissions of news, editorials, and short fiction from all students, staff, and faculty of Mat-Su College. All students are invited to attend the Monitor's weekly meetings. Details on participating in or submitting content to the Monitor can be found at <https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor>

The Mat-Su Monitor is funded by the Mat-Su College Student Government Association and our advertisers. For information on advertising in the Monitor contact Micah Muer at mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

The opinions expressed the Monitor article are solely those of its authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the college, its students and employees, or the wider University of Alaska system.

Student Government Report

STUDENT GOVERNMENT meetings Tuesdays 1:30 FSM 196.

All students welcome.

- Discussion of SGC budget
- Reports from Student Media Board, Planning Committee, Election Committee
- Old Business:
 - Student representatives heading to Juneau.
 - Report on January dance.
- New Business:
 - Pizza Parties during Student Government meetings 2/25, 3/18, 4/15 - **All students welcome.**
 - Todd Johnson documentary on Climate Change April 8
 - Spring Dance April 11th - Roaring Twenties
- Club reports; GSA, ADVET, Robotics, Bible Club, JEDI, Human Services/Journey
- PLANNING COMMITTEE meetings Tuesdays 2:45 JKB 114

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT
IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Play an important role on the Mat-Su College Campus. Being on a committee can help to enhance your career, give you a chance to give back to your community, and give you the opportunity to challenge yourself by helping to shape your society.

Join a Mat-Su College Student Government
Council Committee

Or join one of the student clubs.

Clubs are a great place to meet like minded people, have fun, learn new things and relax.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Table Top Gaming Club | Human Services |
| Gay Straight Alliance | Gamers Club |
| Math Club | Robotics Club |
| Bible Club | Mat-Su Monitor |
| ADVET Club | |

Joining a committee or club looks good on resumes as well as gives you a chance to connect with fellow students, staff and faculty. You owe it to yourself to try them out. If you don't see a club that interests you, can start one of your own. Student Government will fund you up to \$300 to cover expenses. You can pick up a form at the Student Government office in JKB 114, near the caf .

FREE PIZZA!



Have a slice on us! Stop by to watch your Student Governmt in action and grab a slice of pizza. Pizza will be served at the following meetings:
Feb 25, Mar 18, Apr 15 in FSM 106.



Get involved with your
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Meetings Tuesdays
1:30 - 2:30 FSM 106

My Mental Health: Do I need Help?

First, determine how much
your symptoms interfere with
your daily life.

Do I have severe symptoms that
have lasted 2 weeks or more?

- Feeling a little down
- Feeling down, but still able to do job, schoolwork, or housework
- Some trouble sleeping
- Feeling down, but still able to take care of yourself or take care of others

Do I have severe symptoms that
have lasted 2 weeks or more?

- Difficulty sleeping
- Appetite changes that result in unwanted weight changes
- Struggling to get out of bed in the morning because of mood
- Difficulty concentrating
- Loss of interest in things you usually find enjoyable
- Unable to perform usual daily functions and responsibilities
- Thoughts of death or self-harm

If so, here are some self-care

activities that may help:

- Exercising (e.g., aerobics, yoga)
- Engaging in social contact (virtual or in person)
- Getting adequate sleep on a regular schedule
- Eating Healthy
- Talking to a trusted friend or family member
- Practicing meditation, relaxation, and mindfulness

If the symptom(s) do not improve or seem to be worsening despite self-care efforts, talk to your health care provider.

Seek professional help:

- Psychotherapy (talk-therapy)—virtual or in person; individual, group or family
- Medications
- Brain stimulation therapies
- For help finding treatment, visit www.nimh.nih.gov/findhelp.

If you are in a crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), or text the Crisis Text Line (text HELLO to 741741).

Business owners!

The Mat-Su Monitor is a great place to advertise. The Monitor has a wide circulation, with thousands of copies inserted in the Frontiersman and distributed throughout the Valley.

Ad Size	Cost
3" by 3"	\$75
5" by 5"	\$125
7" by 7"	\$175
Full page	\$300
Full page, back	\$375

Moreover, the Monitor runs relatively few ads, which ensures that your ad will stand out. Finally, advertising in the Monitor demonstrates your support for local students. For more on advertising, call 745-9758.

INVOLVED WITH YOUR STUDENT NEWSP

Join the
Mat-Su
Monitor

OLB 214 upstairs in the Library or ZOOM with us
Wednesdays 1-2
contact uaa_mscmonitor@alaska.edu or cal (907) 745-9758

Congratulations, Deans and Chancellor's List Students!

*This list combines Spring and Fall 2024
Deans and Chancellor's students.*

*Students who appear on the Dean's List
have had a semester in which they had a
GPA over 3.5. Students on the
Chancellor's List have had a semester
with a 4.0 GPA.*

Zachary Ainsworth

Jeremy Akers

Rourke Asselin

Eleni Beck

Emily Beiler

Hans Beiler

Samantha Blann

Melanie Clayton

Hannah Clinch

Kasey Conrad

Nathan Courter

Abeni Daniels

Marie Dehart

Kiersten Dubois

Emily Duenas

Magarren Ellibee

Sarah Ellsworth

Makenzie Hammond

Anthony Hickel

Dalton Hickey

Brendan Ichinose

Gracie Johnson

Anastasiia Kalmykova

Levi Kilburn

Adam Kuenning

Mariah Licata

Heidi Linder

Paige Marshall

Tara McCann

Samuel Woods Miller IV

Zachary Mueller

Sarah Nelson

McKenna Nelson

Julia Palko

Sara Phillips

Faith Poglitsch

Darius Prior

Brayden Root

Isabella Sanchez

Reese Sande

Joseph Schnoberger

Allie Schock

Elizabeth Spindler

Aren Springvloed

Mykaela Suarez

Robert Sullivan Jr

Damon Sylva

Choltira Thatcher

John Thomas

Cade Tuttle

Sarah Uschmann

Madison Welcome

Juliana White

Elise Wright

Visiting Artist offers Community Workshop

Internationally renowned artist Dominik Modlinski led a two-day workshop on February 6 & 7, culminating in an artist talk and exhibition.

Originally from Warsaw, Poland, Dominik Modlinski moved to Canada in 1987 and has since dedicated his artistic career to exploring and capturing the world's last remaining wilderness areas. His travels have taken him to Antarctica, the High Arctic, Greenland, Patagonia, Namibia, South Africa, Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador, where he immerses himself in the raw beauty of nature, translating these experiences into breathtaking paintings. Friday's artist talk will highlight all his travels with anecdotes and beautiful artwork.

When not traveling, Dominik works from his home studio on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. He is also the creator of 'CHANGING LANDSCAPES,' a television series in which he

travels the world with his best friend in search of adventure and painting locations, broadcast on the SHAW channel. Outside of his art, he is a dedicated martial artist, having trained for 37 years and holding a 6th-degree black belt in Karate.

Dominik Modlinski's work is featured in many prestigious private and corporate collections worldwide. He exhibits regularly and is represented by:

Canada House Gallery in Banff, AB
Hambelton Galleries in Kelowna, BC
Adele Campbell Fine Art Gallery in Whistler, BC
Alpine Echo in Revelstoke, BC
Gallery 133 in Toronto, ON
Medicine Man Gallery in Phoenix, AZ

During the workshop, he demonstrated to participants how to use more color in painting mountains and landscapes, offering invaluable insights into his dynamic approach to color and composition.

A major milestone for our art department and a wonderful community event!



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3" x 3"	5" x 5"	7" x 7"	Full Page
\$125 color	\$175 color	\$225 color	\$300

Advertisers Sought!

Advertising in the Mat-Su Monitor is an affordable way to reach a wide demographic. With a circulation of around 5,000, an educated readership, and affordable rates. For details contact mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

If you or someone you know is homeless or at risk of being homeless, we can help!

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ANTHROPOLOGY *Alaska Native Cultures	GEOGRAPHY *Intro to Global Geography	MEDICAL ASSISTING Essentials of Human Disease Your Health & Social Services Career	VETERINARY ASSISTING Veterinary Assistant Practicum
ART Two-Dimentional Design *Art Appreciation Introduction to Art Education *History of Western Art I	GEOLOGY *Planet Earth	PHILOSOPHY *Introduction to Philosophy *Intro to Logic	WRITING *Writing & the Professions *Writing Across Contexts
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION Business Foundations	HISTORY *Western Civilization I *Western Civilization II *History of United States *History of Alaska	PSYCHOLOGY *Lifespan Development *Intro to Psychology Psychology of Sex & Gender	<i>This list is subject to change. Visit matsu.alaska.edu and click “Course Schedules” for the most up-to date schedule.</i>
CHEMISTRY *General Chemistry I & Lab *General Chemistry II & Lab *Intro to Organic/Biochemistry Chem Skills & Problem Solving	HUMAN SERVICES Selected Topics	QUANTITATIVE SKILLS *College Algebra for Calculus Elementary Algebra *Art of Mathematics	<i>*Indicates class meets GER requirements</i>
ECONOMICS *Principles of Macroeconomics	MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS *Elementary Statistics Intermediate Algebra	SOCIOLOGY *Introduction to Sociology	<i>Semester runs May 19 - August 2</i>

From the Office of Financial Aid.

- The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and Alaska Education Grant (AEG) FAFSA 2025-2026 deadline is June 30. Complete the FAFSA tinyurl.com/2j69h9ry to automatically apply.
- For VA benefits you get your VA Certificate of Eligibility at: <https://www.va.gov/education/>. To get more information on your benefits and what is required from you, go to www.matsu.alaska.edu and click on “Current Students” then under “Tuition|Finance” choose “Veteran|Military”. Be mindful that all students must submit A “Request to be Certified” form each semester.
- The 2024-25 FAFSA application is open for summer classes. The 2025-2026 FAFSA is open for Fall at tinyurl.com/2j69h9ry. Be sure to complete the application as early as possible to ensure you receive the maximum amount of funding available to you!
- If you still have questions, log in to one of our FAFSA/Financial Aid ZOOM Workshops: <https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-services/financial-aid/>

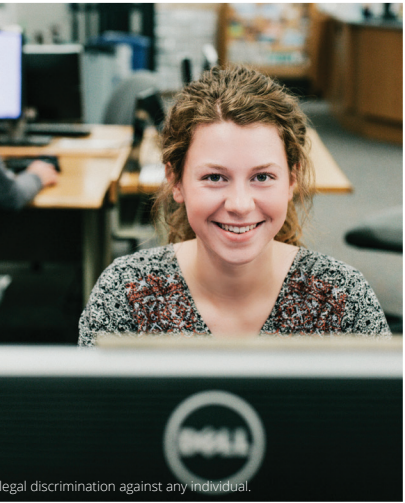
Handshake

Mat-Su College/ UAA students and Alumni can access thousands of internships and jobs, discover career and networking events and more, all through Handshake.

alaska.joinhandshake.com

For more more information contact:
Mat-Su College Student Services
907.45.9746

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SummerSemester Starts May **19**





Sticker Contest

Win a 3-Credit Tuition Waiver

Contest open to registered MSC students with a 2.5 GPA or better. Design must be submitted by 5pm on March 31, 2025. Design must feature Mat-Su College colors, logo and the year 2025. Winner to be announced by April 9, 2025.



For complete rules and info, scan the QR Code or visit matsu.alaska.edu/academic-programs/fine-art/sticker-competition

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Microsoft Office, for Free

By Art Corvelay

As a student affiliated with a UAA campus, you have free access to Microsoft’s Office 365 website.

Office 365 offers browser-based versions of some the popular Office programs: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. These lack a few features found in their desktop counterparts, but make up for that by saving your files to “the cloud” and by allowing multiple users to simultaneously edit the same document.

Better still, Office 365 users have the option to install the full 2016 versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Simply sign into Office 365 and click the “Install Now” button.

You can access Office 365 by visiting <https://portal.office.com> and signing in with your UA username followed by @alaska.edu.

Students who want a free, no-strings-attached office suite that will be available long past their graduation should look at LibreOffice (<https://www.libreoffice.org/>).



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Bargaining parties reached a tentative deal with support from federal mediation, after talks stalled in a deadlock last month

The University of Alaska administration and the union representing nearly 1,100 faculty and postdoctoral fellows have reached a tentative agreement for a new three-year contract.

The deal announced on Wednesday includes across-the-board salary increases each year and a boost to minimum salaries.

“I think we have a very fair and balanced contract,” University President Pat Pitney said Thursday. “We are so interdependent in moving this institution forward. Faculty obviously are integral to our research and our enrollment priorities. The contract provides increases, provides a path, you know, a three-year horizon for faculty, but also allows us to keep our fiscal stability. That is so critically important for the ongoing connection with our students and our communities.”

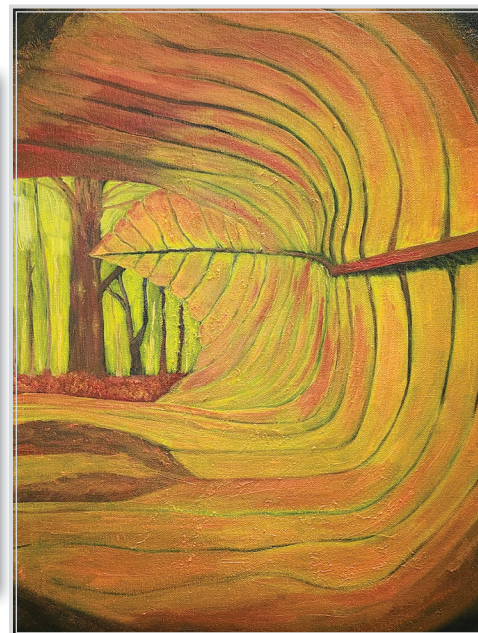
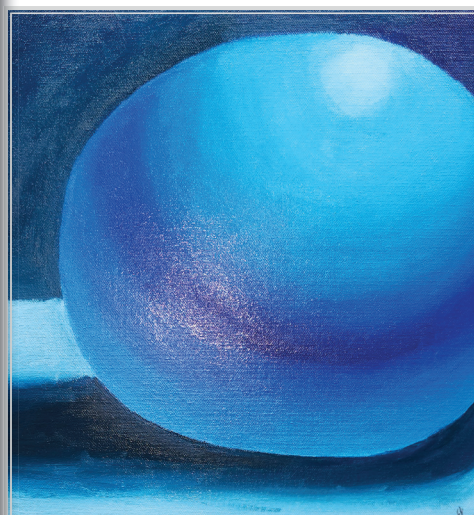
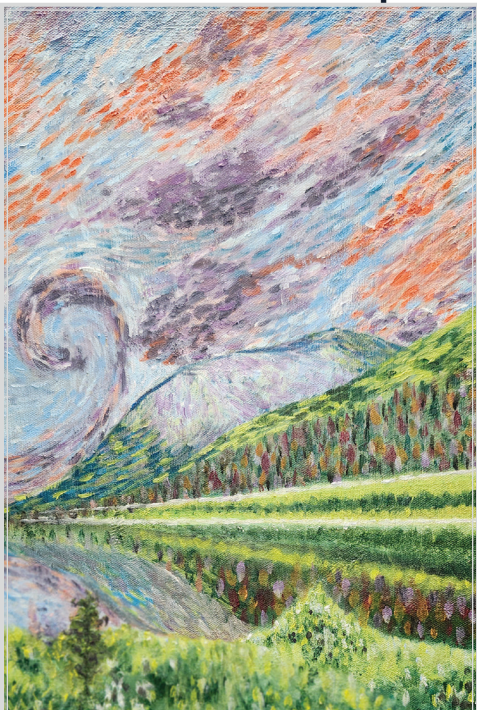
Under the tentative agreement, healthcare benefits would remain the same, with 82% of the costs covered by the employer and 18% by the employee.

“From an administration standpoint, we were trying to get a little bit of relief in our health care benefit side,” Pitney added. “We didn’t get that. But I think overall it’s a great contract and we appreciate the closure.”

The United Academics Local 4996 union membership opted to take the lower salary increases, in order to continue the same costs share benefit, UNAC bargaining team member Jerry Babcock said. Babcock is a professor with the department of justice at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

“Of course it’s not everything we wanted,” Babcock said. “I don’t believe that it’s reflective of the value of our bargaining unit members, but I do believe that it’s the best agreement we can get at this time, with the university’s priorities, in order to serve our members with their primary concerns, the first of which is no changes to health care.”

Babcock said the union conducted surveys with the membership throughout the negotiations to best represent their interests. They also opted to keep what’s known as a “me-too clause,” where if the university grants higher raises with other union groups, those raises would apply to UNAC members as well.





MEETING TIMES

Wednesdays

1:00 - 2:00

OLB 214

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- Photographers
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Now taking submissions:
Next deadline for entries:
February 28



GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR
**STUDENT
GOVERNMENT**
Meetings Tuesdays
1:30-2:30 FSM 106

Health & Human Services Club

The information gateway between
community help organizations and the Mat-Su
College student body.

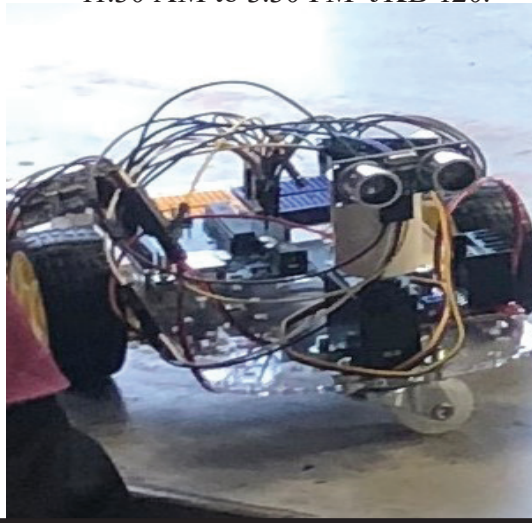
Meeting Times TBA

Contact Dave Evans at
dtevens6@alaska.edu

Robotics Club

Monday - Wednesday

11:30 AM to 3:30 PM JKB 120.



*MSC Gay Straight Alliance
LGBTQIA+ Student Club*



LGBTQIA+ / Gay-Straight Alliance Club Meetings:

Wednesdays	2:30 – 3:30	FSM 106
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Advisor: K. Joey Pavia-Jones

kpavia@alaska.edu

Mat-Su College Student Club: Gay Straight Alliance

BIBLE CLUB

When: TBD

Where: FSM 106

Tabletop Gaming Club



In The Cafe
Thursdays: 2:30-4:30 PM



Play board and card games, listen
to music, and vibe with your
fellow students! Feel free to
bring your board or card games
as well (remember to take them
home though)!

ADVET Club

The Arctic Dragon Veterinary Exploration Team is a club focused on exploring the many areas of the veterinary field, working to familiarize its members with what they could expect or what careers exist within. Not only is the club open to members of the Veterinary Assistant Certification and Veterinary Technician programs, but also to people outside of the programs, whether it be other students or people in the community who are curious about the club's activities. We hold bi-weekly meetings. This semester meetings will be :

**EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY
2:30 IN VETT TECH SUITE**

We hope to see you at one of our meetings! If you have any questions, you can contact Dr. Montalbano at 907-745-9771 or email her at jemontalbano@alaska.edu.

Mat-Su College / UAA Multicultural Student Services

JOIN THE JEDI ALLIANCE

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- Advance belonging and inclusion at Mat-Su!
- Get involved and share your voice!
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Questions? Contact Dr. Jennifer Bernard at jdbarnard@alaska.edu

Rocket Science *continued from page 1*

Since rocket engines are unlikely to have to run anything like a turbine after combustion occurs, no work is done by the flow. For a gaseous exhaust flow, the effects of gravitational potential energy are considered small compared to any of the other forms of energy and are ignored. Under the assumptions of an isentropic flow, in order to maintain a constant entropy, no energy enters or leaves the system, resulting in no change in energy to or from outside sources. If both the total conditions (the point in the flow where no movement is occurring) and the stagnation conditions (the point in the flow where it is moving) are considered, then Eq. 3 becomes: Eq. 4

$$h_0 = h + \frac{v^2}{2}$$

Through a series of substitutions and simplifications, Eq. 4 gives rise to a relation between the temperature ratio of a flow and its Mach number. Eq. 5

$$\frac{T_0}{T} = 1 + \frac{\gamma - 1}{2} M^2$$

Combining Eq. 2 and Eq. 5 now gives some very useful relations between the states of a flow at any point and its Mach number.

$$\frac{T}{T_0} = \left(1 + \frac{\gamma - 1}{2} M^2\right)^{-1}$$
Eq. 6a

$$\frac{p}{p_0} = \left(1 + \frac{\gamma - 1}{2} M^2\right)^{-\frac{\gamma}{\gamma - 1}}$$
Eq. 6b

$$\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} = \left(1 + \frac{\gamma - 1}{2} M^2\right)^{-\frac{1}{\gamma - 1}}$$
Eq. 6c

Determination of Performance

Of main interest to any rocket engine designer is, of course, performance. This comes through the thrust and specific impulse (the rocket engine’s efficiency).

$$F_{th} = \dot{m} v_e + (p_e - p_{atm}) A_e$$
Eq. 7a

$$I_{sp} = \frac{F_{th}}{\dot{m} g}$$
Eq. 7b

Of particular importance are the mass flow rate, exit pressure, exit velocity, and exit area as these are our unknowns currently that need to be worked out. The exit pressure, exit velocity, and exit area are all tied together in the fact that an exit condition needs to be known to find any of these values. For the mass flow rate, an equation has to be derived and simplified to get any usable information out of it. To start with the mass flow rate, in physics, it is well known to be a pretty simple relation. Eq. 8

$$\dot{m} = \rho v A$$

Through another series of substitutions and simplifications using the isentropic relations and the ideal gas law, we arrive at an even less simple equation with some issues. Eq. 9

$$\dot{m} = \frac{p_0 A}{\sqrt{T_0}} \sqrt{\frac{\gamma}{R}} M \left(1 + \frac{\gamma - 1}{2} M^2\right)^{-\frac{\gamma + 1}{2(\gamma - 1)}}$$

While many variables in Eq. 9 are known, two problems come from the fact that there is no way to determine the values of the Mach number or area at any point and

whether any chosen area or Mach number correlate to each other. To solve this new issue, another differential equation comes in handy that relates the area change in a flow to that of its Mach number. Eq. 10

$$\frac{dA}{A} = \frac{M^2 - 1}{1 + \frac{\gamma - 1}{2} M^2} \frac{dM}{M}$$

A useful point in the flow to analyze is where the area is at its smallest. For a rocket, this comes at the throat where the area expansion is at its lowest. From calculus, in order to find a minimum at a point, the differential equation is set to zero and solved. If this is done, a curious result comes out where M = 1.

While useful to know the Mach number at which minimum area is achieved, how can this relate to the mass flow rate? Well, through the same process as before with the Eq. 10, the mass flow rate equation can be differentiated through a very difficult differentiation with respect to the Mach number and setting the result equal to zero. When the equation is also solved through a pretty painful process of simplification, the same, curious result of M = 1 comes out again. This shows that the mass flow rate reaches a maximum and the area reaches its lowest point M = 1, allowing for the mass flow rate equation to be tied to the throat of the engine and simplified down to a usable form. Eq. 11

$$\dot{m} = \frac{p_0 A^*}{\sqrt{T_0}} \sqrt{\frac{\gamma}{R}} \left(\frac{\gamma + 1}{2}\right)^{-\frac{\gamma + 1}{2(\gamma - 1)}}$$

Another useful relation can be determined through the integration of Eq. 10. Since it has been shown that M = 1 at the rocket’s throat, Eq. 10 can be integrated from the throat and at M = 1 to any subsequent area and Mach number to give a relation between the area and the Mach number. Eq. 12

$$\frac{A}{A^*} = \frac{1}{M} \left(\frac{1 + \frac{\gamma - 1}{2} M^2}{\frac{\gamma + 1}{2}}\right)^{\frac{\gamma + 1}{2(\gamma - 1)}}$$

It is through Eq. 12 that the exit conditions of the nozzle can be found. If an exit area is assumed with a known throat area, then the area ratio equation can be used to numerically solve for an exit Mach number. The other two unknown variables for determining thrust and specific impulse, exit pressure and exit velocity, can be determined using the exit Mach number. For exit pressure, this is computed out through the use of Eq. 6b. However, for velocity, there is an extra step needed through the calculation of the exit temperature through the use of Eq. 6a. When done, this can be used with the exit Mach number to calculate the exit velocity through the use of Eq. 13. Eq. 13

$$v = M \sqrt{\gamma R T}$$

Limitations

As with all theories that are sim-

plified, there are sources of error that will cause isentropic flow to not give accurate numbers. This is down to a number of factors. The most obvious one can be understood from the assumption isentropic flow was derived from. In a real rocket engine, it is impossible to have an engine run with an entropy change of zero. Rockets require gases to be combusted to high temperatures which can cause the walls on the sides of the rocket engine to heat up. Any heat loss to the sides of the combustion chamber is energy lost in the flow, increasing entropy. Viscous effects on the walls of the rocket engine also can cause the flow to slow down, decrease pressure outputs, and increase entropy in the process.

Another issue with isentropic flow is it assumes an ideal gas, and that the heat capacity of the flow is constant regardless of temperature. A real gas is going to have different properties from an ideal gas at higher temperatures due to the neglected interacting forces between molecular compounds that an ideal gas ignores. The same is true for a gas with a constant heat capacity. Interacting forces between molecules often causes the heat capacity to vary over wide ranges of temperature. While some of the mechanisms behind the behavior of real gases are well studied, resulting in several different real gas models that work to correct the ideal gas model, the behaviors at the subatomic scale are complex enough that there isn’t a well defined mathematical theory that accurately shows the heat capacity as it changes with temperature.

As can be seen, there are a wide variety of reasons that can cause isentropic flow to be inaccurate. From my own experience, I have seen isentropic flow to be off by as much as 11% from actual rocket performance. While many engineers I know would say it’s close enough, scientists would likely beg to differ. So, this does beg the question, why even teach isentropic flow if its main assumptions are incorrect and the estimations somewhat inaccurate? For undergraduate students, this is likely because isentropic flow works as a simple model to explain how flows operate in a rocket engine. If you start to include the effects of friction, heat transfer, and real gas effects, you begin to approach the realm of math that requires computational fluid dynamics and a graduate level understanding to actually get better results. Even if it is inaccurate, the theory behind isentropic flow still holds some water as many of the same ideas are applied to computational fluid dynamics later on. For me at the undergraduate level, it still works as a method to get a decent idea of performance that doesn’t require a graduate level understanding of fluid dynamics.

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Symbol Meaning	
A	Area (m²)
c _p	Specific Heat Capacity (J/kgK)
F _{th}	Force (N)
g	Gravitational Acceleration (9.8 m/s²)
h	Enthalpy (kJ/kg)
I _{sp}	Specific Impulse (s)
ke	Kinetic Energy (kJ/kg)
M	Mach Number
$\dot{m}$	Mass Flow Rate (kg/s)
p	Pressure (pa)
pe	Potential Energy (kJ/kg)
q	Energy (kJ/kg)
R	Specific Gas Constant (kJ/kgK)
S	Entropy (J/kgK)
T	Temperature (K)
v	Velocity (m/s)
w	Work (kJ/kg)
Greek Symbols	
γ	Specific Heat Ratio
Δ	Change in
ρ	Density (kg/m³)
Subscripts	
0	Total Conditions
atm	Atmosphere
e	Exit Conditions
in,net	Net Input
out,net	Net Output
Superscript	
*	Throat Conditions

Alaskans failing to make progress toward most health improvements sought by 2030

The latest Healthy Alaskans status report shows little improvement in most categories, including preventive care for pregnant women and young children

By Yereth Rosen

Midway through the decade, Alaskans have failed to make significant progress toward the health targets in numerous categories, according to an annual tracking report issued by state and tribal officials.

The latest Healthy Alaskans 2030 update, compiled in December, shows a lack of progress in reducing rates of drug- and alcohol-related deaths, continued sedentary behavior among adolescents, failure to improve what are now inadequate rates of prenatal care for pregnant women and well-child care for young children and continued high rates of death from accidental injuries and suicide, among other measures.

The Healthy Alaskans program is a partnership between the Alaska Department of Health and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. The program sets decade-scale targets for improvements in a wide variety of health metrics, with progress updated in annual status reports.

The latest report shows areas where continued work is needed, as well as areas where there have been successes, said Andrea Fenaughty, a state public health manager and member of the Healthy Alaskans 2030 team. She and other health officials presented the status report findings on Tuesday at the annual Alaska Public Health Association Summit, held in Anchorage.

“Even though we look at the data every year, we’re not really expecting that halfway through the decade we would have met all the targets because they’re really to be met for 2030,” Fenaughty said. “That said, it is important to monitor every year.”

“All of this is useful information for all our partners across the

state who are working on all of these health objectives so they can refocus their efforts where they need to,” she added.

Of the 30 statewide Healthy Alaskans 2030 objectives, 20 showed no improvement. There were seven objectives for which 2030 targets had been met, two for which there have been progress and one for which data was missing.

Among the Healthy Alaskans 2030 objectives specific to Indigenous residents, there was no improvement in 14. Targets were met for two, improvement was recorded for eight and there was insufficient data for six.

A notable shortcoming highlighted in the annual status report is a decline in childhood vaccinations for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. The combined diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis vaccine, commonly known as DTaP, should be administered four times to children before they are 2 years old, according to state and federal medical guidelines.

The Healthy Alaskans 2030 objective is for 90% compliance with that recommendation by the end of the decade. But currently, only about 63% of Alaska children between 2 and 3 years old had received the full course of four vaccine doses, said Eliza Ramsey, an epidemiologist working on a fellowship at the state Department of Health.

The low rate is poignant in 2025.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the deadly diphtheria outbreak in Nome that resulted in the famous delivery of medicine by sled-dog teams. The 1925 Serum Run, which brought medicine from Fairbanks to Nome, uses part of what is now the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race course. This year’s 100th

Celebrating 100 Years

The life-saving serum was delivered to Nome in a record-breaking 127.5 hours, without a single broken vial. This came to be known as the 1925 Serum Run. Many aspects of this journey are commemorated annually in the Iditarod dog sled race.



Dorothy Page, Mother of the Iditarod

Photo courtesy of Jeff Schultz/
IditarodPhotos.com



Joe Redington, Father of the Iditarod

Photo courtesy of Jeff Schultz/
IditarodPhotos.com

Dorothy G. Page, the “Mother of the Iditarod” is quoted in the October 1979 issue of the Iditarod Runner on her intent for the Iditarod: “To keep the spirit of the Iditarod the same. I don’t ever want to see high pressure people getting in and changing the spirit of the race. We brought the sled dog back and increased the number of mushers. It is really an Alaskan event. I think the fact that it starts in Anchorage and then ends in Nome has opened up a whole new area for people in Alaska. I think they appreciate that. It puts them in touch with the pioneer spirit.” At this time, Dorothy was fairly ‘new’ to Alaska, and the conversations that she and Joe had blended with Joe’s knowledge and goals to create a common recognition of the importance of the Iditarod Trail.

In 1997, Joe Redington, Sr. took part in the 25 Anniversary Iditarod Race after celebrating his 80th birthday. The race was dedicated to this great sled dog racing pioneer. He is the only musher to have been given the first position to leave the chute without draw-

ing, as well as to wear the #1 bib.

Joe never did win the race he loved so much, but that wasn’t as important to him as just being on the trail with his beloved sled dogs. He raced in 19 races and came in 5th place four times.

Joe Redington, Sr. died in June of 1999 of cancer. He was buried in Wasilla in his favorite dogsled in a specially made vault.

Joe’s name is called during roll call at every Iditarod Trail Board meeting. The Board President always excuses Redington’s absence because “Joe is on the trail.” This routine procedure at Iditarod Board meetings reminds us of the Iditarod spirit that Joe Redington Sr. exemplified and lives on in the lives of all the mushers, volunteers, and fans of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

A bronze winner’s trophy has been added in honor of Joe Redington and a halfway award prize has been added in honor of Dorothy G. Page.

MUSH!

H	K	S	E	T	U	M	A	L	A	M	O	O	G	R
G	R	A	Y	L	I	N	G	R	S	O	T	L	A	B
I	A	F	L	L	P	Y	F	K	O	E	A	G	L	E
D	M	E	R	T	T	P	W	T	H	N	O	M	E	G
I	C	T	E	R	A	E	I	O	Y	E	N	T	N	A
T	G	Y	F	I	N	G	E	R	L	A	K	E	A	R
A	R	E	D	T	J	O	E	L	C	L	N	L	N	O
R	A	I	N	Y	P	A	S	S	K	I	I	A	V	H
O	T	A	K	O	T	N	A	N	V	A	T	W	I	C
D	H	L	Y	H	T	O	R	O	D	E	L	R	K	N
H	K	O	P	H	I	R	L	S	E	P	P	A	L	A
U	O	K	I	L	O	O	T	K	A	H	S	N	N	W
S	Y	I	I	N	G	W	H	I	T	E	M	N	T	U
K	U	N	U	L	A	T	O	S	A	M	O	Y	E	D
Y	K	S	H	A	G	E	L	U	K	S	R	U	B	Y

Circle the words from the list below. Place the leftover letters in the spaces for a special message!

ANCHORAGE
ANVIK
BALTO
CRIPPLE
DOROTHY
EAGLE
ELIM
FINGER LAKE
GALENA

GOLOVIN
GRAYLING
HUSKY
IDITAROD
JOE
KALTAG
KOYUK
MALAMUTE
MCGRATH

NIKOLAI
NOME
NULATO
OPHIR
RAINY PASS
RUBY
SAFETY
SAMOYED

SEPPALA
SHAGELUK
SHAKTOOLIK
SKWENTNA
TAKOTNA
UNALAKLEET
WHITE MNT
WILLOW
YENTNA

AESOP FABLE

A Dog, to whom the butcher had thrown a bone, was hurrying home with his prize as fast as he could go. As he crossed a narrow footbridge, he happened to look down and saw himself reflected in the quiet water as if in a mirror. But the greedy Dog thought he saw a real Dog carrying a bone much bigger than his own.

If he had stopped to think he would have known better. But instead of thinking, he dropped his bone and sprang at the Dog in the river, only to find himself swimming for dear life to reach the shore. At last he managed to scramble out, and as he stood sadly thinking about the good bone he had lost, he realized what a stupid Dog he had been.

MORAL: *It is very foolish to be greedy.*

S U D O K U

Fill the grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3 x 3 section contains all of the digits 1 through 9.

					9	4	6	5
8			7		3	9	2	
			1			8		3
	6	9	8		5			
5	4	3	6	2		7	8	9
	2				7			6
9	7			4				
4				1	6	2	3	
		1			8		9	

**When all the moments
you will ever know
have passed, and all the
people you will ever love
have grown quiet—in
the perfect stillness of
eternity—only two things
will remain:**

**The spilled colors
where you painted
kindness onto the
canvas of others’
lives.**

**The pinholes in the
firmament where you
threw rocks at the
darkness to let the
light in.**

**Take a moment to lick
your wounds. Then pick
up your paintbrush and a
rock.**

A fellow traveler

Here’s how it works: A R C T I C D R A G O N
is B S D U J D E S B H P O

One letter stands for another. In this example the letter B stands for the letter A so all the Bs stand for the letter A, Ds stand for C, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, and word length are all clues. The code letters are different for every puzzle.

A F Z Z O W T Y Y O Y F

Q F H E Z I Z Z U -

J A F H C T Y E Y J A I C N

Hint: C=L , Q=W



Parnell continued from page 1

“He joined our system during a challenging time, and has been a dedicated chancellor since Day 1, revitalizing connections with the Anchorage and the UAA Community,” Pitney said in a prepared statement on Tuesday. “He’ll be very missed. As we navigate the transition in the coming months, I’m committed to quality two-way communication with UAA stakeholders to fill the Chancellor role in a way that sets UAA up for continued success, and maintains the stability that’s been built during his tenure.”

UAA includes roughly 12,000 students across campuses in Anchorage, Palmer, Kodiak, Valdez, Soldotna and Homer.

During his term as chancellor, Parnell prioritized college affordability and expanding community partnerships, and led UAA through the COVID-10 pandemic.

Parnell, a Republican, served as Alaska’s 10th governor from 2009 to 2014. He was elected as lieutenant governor in 2006, and assumed the governorship in 2009 when Sarah Palin resigned, eight months after her

defeat as U.S. Sen. John McCain’s running mate for vice president. In 2010, he was elected governor and served one term. He lost his reelection bid in 2014 to Bill Walker.

Parnell has had a long career in Alaska politics and law. He started as an attorney based in Anchorage in 1987. He was elected to the Alaska House at the age of 29 in 1992, and served one term before being elected to the Alaska Senate for one term, until 2000. He returned to practicing law, working for public and private interests, including the oil and gas company ConocoPhillips.

With Parnell’s retirement announcement, the University of Alaska administration will be recruiting and hiring a new chancellor to oversee UAA, which has a \$332 million budget.

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Music continued from page 1

Winter since its melody sticks out with its typically fast paced, high pitch sounds coming from the violins. The bass for the whole performance comes from one or two cellos that provide a good backbone for the whole performance. One of the main differences from Vivaldi’s Winter and Todd’s Inverno other than its length is that Inverno uses cellos when Winter is only violins. This comes as no surprise considering the only instrument that could have been an equivalent to the cello in Vivaldi’s time was the viol da gamba since cellos didn’t exist at that time yet. Compared to the original Winter, I think Inverno does a good job of creating a piece that sounds kind of like a Romantic era version of Vivaldi’s original piece.

Continuing on from a reimagined Baroque piece to that of a reimagined Classical piece original composed by Franz Joseph Haydn now rearranged by Richard Meyer, Symphony No. 94 in G Major (2nd Movement), better known as the Surprise Symphony which is what it will be referred to as for this review. It starts out similarly to the original symphony of the same name, although with a bit slower of a tempo that it continues throughout the whole piece. It still has that signature crescendo to scare the pants off any sleepy kings, although there was only one of them unfortunately. A major difference it has from the original symphony is it has more occasional percussion provided by cymbals and drums all throughout the performance which kind of gives it the feeling of a military march. In terms of any comparisons to the original, it still contains a main ensemble of woodwinds and strings that follows similarly with the same tune as the original. It is also slightly shorter than Haydn’s original symphony being a little more than five minutes compared to Haydn’s original at around six minutes. Regardless, I think Meyer did a great job rearranging Haydn’s Surprise Symphony even if the kids I brought along to listen to the music were bummed there weren’t more of those spontaneous crescendos.

While this is only two of the nine pieces presented, I still think it gives a good idea of what was performed in that performance. The Mat-Su Orchestra went primarily with pieces that a lot of people would have known about, but went with rearranged pieces that help make the performance much more engaging to me.

Contract continued from page 11

ments in faculty salaries. However, the administration seems hesitant to implement these recommendations.

While acknowledging the need to reach a fair agreement, the University administration has proposed what the union considers “half measures” that fall short of addressing the faculty’s financial struggles. Negotiations, which began in August, have been slow and frustrating for both sides.

“The initial meetings were held on Zoom, and the University took some unusual steps,” says Muer. “Everyone was required to identify themselves and swear no one else was in the room. It felt like an attempt to stifle any leaks of information.”

Adding to the frustration is the infrequent and unpredictable negotiation schedule. “The talks seem to happen every two to three weeks at best,” Muer explains. “The union proposed meeting every Tuesday, but the actual schedule is quite erratic. Meetings are often delayed, and there’s no guarantee when they’ll resume. Even if you do manage to log in at the right time, the Zoom room is tightly controlled, and they seem unable to accommodate new participants.”

With the current contract set to expire at the end of the year, the pressure is on to reach an agreement that is fair to both faculty and the University. The faculty union hopes to secure a contract that recognizes their value and allows them to maintain a decent standard of living, while the administration grapples with budgetary constraints and legislative approval.

The outcome of these negotiations will directly impact the quality of education students receive. Well-compensated and supported faculty are more likely to be engaged and effective educators. Students, therefore, have a vested interest in seeing a fair contract reached that benefits both the faculty and the University as a whole.

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FOUNDATION

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Alaska’s Health continued from page 9

anniversary has inspired numerous commemorative events in Nome, Anchorage and elsewhere.

There have been no diphtheria cases in Alaska in the past 25 years, said Ramsey, who made a presentation at the summit about the history of the Nome outbreak and the serum run.

However, Alaska, like much of the country, has faced a big increase in pertussis, also known as whooping cough.

A notable improvement cited in the Healthy Alaskans status report concerns smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes. Alaskans have already met state health officials’ 2030 targets for dropping their dependence on those products, according to the status report.

Christy Knight, manager of the state’s Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, summarized tobacco-focused policy actions stretching back to the 1990s. Those included laws raising the age of legal purchase and hiking taxes – both actions aimed at reducing youth access to tobacco products – and a 2018 state law guaranteeing that workplaces and enclosed public places are smoke-free, she said.

A pending legislative effort would impose the first Alaska state tax on e-cigarette projects. The bill, Senate Bill 24, is sponsored by Senate President Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak. It is the third time he has introduced such a bill; the Legislature passed his first bill in 2023, but Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed it.

Knight, speaking at the conference, described other tobacco-reduction efforts that concern education and help for users who want to quit, she said. Her program has “a long list” of partners that help with those projects, she said. She listed Breathe Free Alaska and its regional affiliates, the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and AARP, among others.

“It’s a comprehensive effort to make the change that we’re trying to make in reducing tobacco use in our state,” she said.

Another bright spot concerns sugary drinks. Among children three years old and younger, the Health Alaskans 2030 target for reducing consumption of such drinks has already been achieved, the status report said.

The state’s Play Every Day campaign includes public messages urging parents to avoid giving their children sugar-laden drinks.

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Faculty continued from page 6

“For us and our members, we believe that’s a win,” he said.

After a mutually declared impasse announced in December, both parties requested a federal mediator to assist with the negotiations. The bargaining teams reached agreement after two sessions with the mediator this month.

Part of the bargaining deadlock was centered around compensation and benefits.

The union had pointed to members struggling with high cost of living, with rising inflation, housing costs, and stagnant salaries. They had proposed raising wages by 4%, 4.5% and 5% annually over the next three years, while the university administration has proposed 2.75%, 3% and 3% increases.

Under the tentative agreement, salaries would be increased by 2.75%, 3%, and 3.25% over the next three years.

“Even at our higher starting point, we weren’t addressing the issue of the increase in consumer price index in Alaska over the last six years,” Babcock said, referring to rising inflation and cost of living. “That hasn’t been addressed yet in our salary increases, and it’s unfortunate that we’re not in a place where the university administration is willing to address that for our members.”

But he said the union feels the health care split is a fair compromise, as well as boosting salary minimums. “The increases were 15% for our post doctoral fellows and 10% for all the other ranks,” he said, referring to assistant, associate and full professors. “It’s a good starting place.”

Overall, he said the federal mediator was helpful in getting to this tentative agreement.

“We feel like this is the best that we can do with the current university administration’s positions on getting our members something, and getting them something in time for the Legislature to approve it in this session,” he said.

The new contract would extend through Dec. 31, 2027. The total additional cost over the three years is estimated at \$21 million.

The tentative agreement will be put to a vote by UNAC membership before being submitted for approval by the university board of regents. Then it will be submitted along with the university’s budget request to the governor’s Office of Management and Budget and to the Legislature for appropriation this session.

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